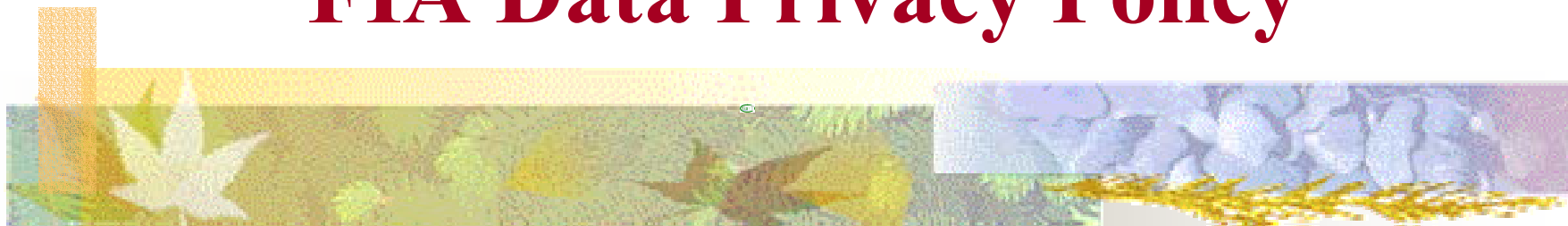




U.S. Forest Service

FIA Data Privacy Policy



presented by
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Old FIA Privacy Policy

Federal Register / Vol. 54, No. 203 / Monday, October 23, 1989 / Notices 43189-90

Access by General Public

- *Available online or digital media*
- *Rounded coordinates, accurate within 1 mile*
- *Detailed ownership groups available for each plot*
- *No data masking except occasional grouping of counties to mask single owners*
- *Name and address of plot owner never revealed*

Access to detailed data

- *Ad hoc policy by each FIA unit*
- *Name and address of plot owner never revealed*



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New FIA Privacy Policy

Access by General Public

- ***Available online or digital media***
- ***Rounded coordinates, accurate within 0.5 mile (with masking)***
- ***Data masking within broad ownership/county groups to ensure privacy while maintaining analytical utility***
- ***Detailed ownership groups available***
- ***Name and address of plot owner never revealed***



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New FIA Privacy Policy

Access to detailed data

- ***Client must be an 'agent' of FIA (working to implement the FIA program)***
- ***FIA has sole authority to grant 'agent' status***
- ***Agent signs MOU acknowledging provisions of Food Security Act and it's penalties***
- ***Outputs always masked to aggregate levels that protect privacy***
- ***Service Center created to facilitate new policy implementation***
- ***Name and address of plot owner never revealed***



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Guiding a New Privacy Policy

The following principles guide the new policy:

- **Privacy:** *Individual ownership information needs to be protected (59% of our plots are on private land)*
- **Integrity:** *Individual plot coordinates need to be randomly assigned within $\pm 1/2$ mile of the exact location (fuzzing) to reduce the risk of unauthorized visits to the plot locations (on public as well as private land).*
- **Consistency:** *The method of protecting the privacy and integrity of the FIA data needs to maintain consistency of the data and results.*



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New guidelines

- ***FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985***
PUBLIC LAW 99-198 [H.R. 2100]; December 23, 1985
- **Federal Register /Vol. 68, No. 172 /
Friday, September 5, 2003 / Notices
52739**
- **Interim Directive in FSH 4809**



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New legislation provides FIA exemption from FOIA

FIA:

- (A)** shall be immune from mandatory disclosure of any type, including legal process; and
- (B)** shall not, without the consent of such person *(the landowner)*, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.



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Privacy Legislation

FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985

PUBLIC LAW 99-198 [H.R. 2100]; December 23, 1985

(c) Any person who shall publish, cause to be published, or otherwise publicly release information collected pursuant to a provision of law referred to in subsection (d), in any manner or for any purpose prohibited in section (a), shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.



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Provisions of the Act

- (1) use such information for a purpose other than the development or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied such information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of such information; or
- (2) disclose such information to the public, unless such information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information.



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